

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

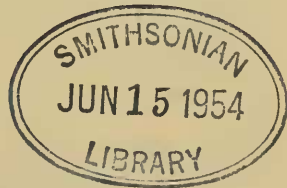
Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 228

Rejection for nomenclatorial purposes of Geoffroy, 1762,
*Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux environs
de Paris*



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 228

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Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England.*)

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Dr. Norman R. STOLL (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.).

C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

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Dr. Edward HINDLE (Zoological Society of London, London, England).

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OPINION 228

REJECTION FOR NOMENCLATORIAL PURPOSES OF GEOFFROY, 1762, "HISTOIRE ABREGÉE DES INSECTES QUI SE TROUVENT AUX ENVIRONS DE PARIS"

RULING :—(1) Names published by Geoffroy (E.L.) in 1762 in the work entitled *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris* are not available for nomenclatorial purposes, for in that work Geoffroy did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature, as required by Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*.

(2) The foregoing work is accordingly hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature* as Work No. 1.

(3) Specialists in the groups dealt with in the foregoing work are invited to submit to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature applications for the validation, under the Plenary Powers, of any name published in it, the rejection of which would, in their opinion, lead to instability or confusion in the nomenclature of the group concerned.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 13th February 1939 Professor H. B. Hungerford (*University of Kansas, Department of Entomology, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature an application for a ruling on the question of the availability of the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (*Hist. abrég. 1* : 478) and the type species for the genus so named, and thus also for a ruling on the general question whether in his *Histoire abrégée* Geoffroy complied with the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25 (i.e., whether in it he applied what at that date—1939—was styled "les principes de la nomenclature

binaire ") and therefore whether names published in the foregoing work possessed a status of availability under the *Règles*. On receipt, the twofold application received from Professor Hungerford was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 137, but later it was judged better to treat Professor Hungerford's application as relating only to the question associated with the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, and for the Secretary to submit a separate application dealing exclusively with the general question of principle involved, namely whether Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* was an acceptable work from the standpoint of the *Règles*. The application so prepared by Mr. Hemming (to which the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 168 was given) was as follows :—

On the question whether generic names published by Geoffroy (E. L.), 1762, " Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris ", are available under Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the International Code

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.)

In an application to the International Commission for a decision regarding that status and type of the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (Order Hemiptera),¹ Professor H. B. Hungerford inevitably raises also the much broader question of the status, whether binary or otherwise, of Geoffroy (E. L.), 1762, *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris*.

The above work, as is well known, deals with all the principal Orders of insects. Its status must, therefore, be treated as a general entomological problem and not one of special interest to the specialists of a single Order.

As I have explained elsewhere², the whole question of what constitutes, and what should constitute, the meaning properly applicable to the expression " nomenclature binaire " is at present the subject of a special inquiry undertaken by the International Commission at the request of the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology (Lisbon, 1935).

The note referred to above contains an appeal made on behalf of the Executive Committee of the International Commission to specialists to assist the Commission in their inquiry by furnishing them

¹ The application here referred to was published in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 258—259).

² Hemming, 1945, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 98—101.

with factual material regarding (i) the extent to which generic names first published in works employing a system of nomenclature not strictly binominal in character are at present commonly used in the systematic literature of the groups concerned and (ii) the extent to which changes in current nomenclature, whether involving confusion or not, would result (a) from the definite acceptance of generic names published in such works or (b) from their definite rejection.

The full text of the appeal referred to above will be found on pages 98-101 of the present volume.³ Specialists in all Orders of insects affected are particularly requested to assist the International Commission by furnishing them with statements showing the position, as respects their own speciality, which would arise from (i) the acceptance and (ii) the rejection of the generic names first published in Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Within a few months of the receipt of Professor Hungerford's original communication, the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942, and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. It was at this point that the short note reproduced in paragraph 1 of the present *Opinion* was written by Mr. Hemming. This was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 26th July 1946 (Hemming, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 117).

³ See footnote 2.

3. The problem lying at the root of the issue raised by Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* was whether an author who, like Geoffroy in 1762, used a system of nomenclature which recognised that a generic name (consisting of a noun substantive in the nominative singular) must form the first portion of the scientific name of an animal but which did not adopt also a single word to be the unique name, within the genus, of any given animal could properly be regarded as having complied with Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles* and therefore whether a generic name published by such an author possessed a status of availability under the *Règles*. Under a decision taken by the Twelfth International Congress of Zoology at Lisbon in 1935 (1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 45), the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature had been instructed to study this subject and to submit a report thereon to the next (Thirteenth) International Congress. In the early part of 1948 Mr. Hemming completed the survey of this problem which he had undertaken in accordance with the foregoing decision and prepared the draft of a Report on this subject for submission to the International Commission. This draft was laid before the Commission on 5th July 1948 in Paper I.C. (48)5⁴. Shortly afterwards, when preparing the present case for consideration by the International Commission in Paris, Mr. Hemming (on 10th July 1948) placed on the file the following Minute in which he raised the question of the action to be taken to preserve well-known names in Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* in the event of the adoption of the proposals which he had submitted on the question of the interpretation of Proviso (b) to Article 25 :—

The question of the status of the generic names first published in 1762 in Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris* depends solely upon the decision to be given by the coming International Congress of Zoology at Paris on the question of the meaning of the expression "nomenclature binaire" as used in Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*. In the draft Report on this subject which, as arranged by the Lisbon Congress of 1935, I have submitted to the International Commission on this subject (Paper I.C. (48) 5, dated 5th July 1948), I have (1) shown that the expression "nomenclature binaire" as used in Article 25 can properly be interpreted only as having a meaning identical with that of the expression

⁴ This Commission Paper was published, with the other papers in this series, in 1950 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 3 : 20—21). For the text of the Report, as adopted by the Commission see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 152—167.

“ nomenclature binominale ”, and (2) recommend that, to put an end to the existing confusion on this subject, the Congress should substitute the latter expression for the unsatisfactory expression “ nomenclature binaire ”. In the same document, I have recommended (paragraphs 34, 35 and 39(4)—(6)) that special provision should be made to protect well-known names published in books by authors who, though not binominal authors, nevertheless adopted a system of nomenclature which recognised the need for securing that the scientific name of an animal should give expression to two concepts, first, that of the major group to which the animal is considered to belong (i.e., in modern terms, the genus to which it is referred), and, second, the concept of the species itself. For in some cases the rejection of names as first published by such authors would clearly give rise to great confusion.

2. If the foregoing recommendations are approved by the International Commission and adopted by the Paris Congress, it will be necessary to invite the assistance of specialists in the groups of insects concerned, to ensure the validation of important names in Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée*.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

4. The question of the interpretation of Proviso (b) to Article 25 was the first of the problems connected with the wording of the *Règles* to be considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at its Paris Session in July 1948. The Commission, after examining the draft Report submitted by the Secretary, decided to approve and adopt the recommendations so laid before it. The Commission accordingly agreed (1) to report to the Paris Congress that, in its opinion, the expression “ nomenclature binaire ” as used in the foregoing Proviso had the same meaning as the expression “ nomenclature binominale ”, and (2) to recommend the substitution of the latter expression for the equivocal expression “ nomenclature binaire ” (Paris Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 3) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 63—66). It was in the light of the decision so taken that the International Commission considered the problem of the status of Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* of 1762 at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre

Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. This case was presented by the Acting President (Mr. Francis Hemming), who, after drawing attention to the fact that the decision on the general question of the interpretation of Proviso (b) to Article 25 automatically involved the rejection of Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée*, invited the Commission to consider the action which it was desirable should be taken to preserve well-known generic names in common use that had first been published in the foregoing work. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission giving a summary of the discussion which then ensued (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 367—368) :—

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING) explained that the present belonged to the class of case, to which reference has been made in the discussion of the question of the type species of the genus *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Aves), where, owing to the difficulty of the problem raised, a decision by the Commission had been inordinately delayed, for it was as far back as 1915 that this issue had been raised by Dr. J. M. Swaine (Department of Agriculture, Forest Investigation Branch, Ottawa, Canada) in connection with the name *Scolytus*.⁵ In addition, the same question had a year later (1916) been raised by Dr. A. D. Hopkins (Bureau of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.). No action was taken on these applications, and in its present form the question now before the Commission arose out of an application submitted by Professor H. B. Hungerford (U.S.A.) for a ruling in regard to the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (file Z.N.(S.) 137), which would be laid before the Commission as the next following item. Continuing, the Acting President said that the recommendation in regard to the interpretation of the expression “*nomenclature binaire*” and the substitution therefor of the expression “*nomenclature binominale*” agreed upon by the Commission at the meeting⁶ and the subsequent approval of that recommendation by the Section on Nomenclature carried the present case a considerable step further forward. No one disputed that in the work in

⁵ The case of the name *Scolytus* Geoffroy, 1762, is now under consideration by the Commission (File Z.N.(S.) 81).

⁶ Paris Session, 4th Meeting, Conclusion 3.

question Geoffroy had been a "binary" but not a binominal author. Accordingly, under the decision referred to above, new names published by that author in the *Histoire abrégée* did not satisfy the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25 and in consequence were not available under the *Règles*. In reaching the foregoing decision in regard to Article 25, the Commission and the Section had agreed, however, that sympathetic consideration should be given to the question of validating the generic names in works rendered unavailable thereunder or to parts of such works, where it could be shown that it was in the interest of stability in nomenclature that names published in such works and at present in common use should be validated. It was therefore for the Commission to consider whether any, and, if so, what special action should be taken to validate generic names as first published by Geoffroy in 1762 in the work now under consideration.

A CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION took place on the question whether availability should be given to all the generic names published in the *Histoire abrégée* or only to some of them. Some of these names should, it was agreed, certainly be preserved, but the position was not so clear as regards others. It was felt that this was a subject which it would be better to deal with piecemeal, Order by Order, in the light of recommendations submitted by entomologists who were specialists in the Orders concerned.

5. At the close of the discussion recorded in the preceding paragraph, the International Commission took its decision on the present case. That decision is set out as follows in the official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 14) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 366—369) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) that, having regard to the recommendation adopted at their Fourth Meeting⁷ that the expression "nomen-

⁷ See note 6.

clature binominale" should be substituted for the expression "nomenclature binaire" in Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles* and to the subsequent approval of that recommendation by the Section on Nomenclature (at its First Meeting), names as published by Geoffroy (E. L.) in 1762 in the work entitled *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux Environs de Paris* were not available under the *Règles*, as Geoffroy had not applied the principles of binominal nomenclature in that work, as required by Proviso (b) to Article 25, as amended in the manner specified above ;

- (2) that certain of the generic names published in the foregoing work, being in wide use, should certainly be validated in the interest of stability in nomenclature, but that, having regard to the large number of Orders of insects dealt with by Geoffroy in the foregoing work, it would be better to consider separately for each Order, in the light of advice from specialists in the Order concerned, the question whether some or all of the generic names published in the foregoing work should be rendered available rather than to render available *en bloc* all the generic names so published.⁸
- (3) to invite the Secretary to the Commission as soon as possible after the close of the present Session to arrange with specialists in the several Orders of insects concerned for the submission to the Commission of statements examining each of the generic names published for that Order, by Geoffroy in the *Hist. abrég.* and containing proposals for the validation, under the Plenary Powers, of such of the names concerned, the rejection of which would lead to instability or confusion in the nomenclature of the group concerned, so that, in the light of the statements so received, the Commission may validate such of the names concerned as may appear to it to be appropriate and place the remainder on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;

⁸ A general appeal to specialists to assist in this investigation was issued in April 1952 (Hemming, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 7 : 198—199). This led to the receipt of a number of important contributions which will be published in the *Bulletin* as soon as possible.

- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decision specified in (1) above, reference being made at the same time to the decisions specified in (2) and (3) above.

6. At its meeting held at Copenhagen in August 1953, the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology decided to insert a provision in the *Règles* establishing an " Official Index " to be styled the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature* and directing the insertion therein of the title of any work which the International Commission might either reject under its Plenary Powers or declare to be invalid for the purposes of zoological nomenclature (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 23—24). Since the foregoing provision applies to past, as well as to future, decisions by the International Commission in cases of this kind, the opportunity presented by the preparation of the present *Opinion* has been taken to record the insertion in the foregoing *Official Index* of the title of Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée*.

7. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 106).

8. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

10. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

11. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight (228) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fourth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING